

Shavuot is Here!

You can always know that Shavuot is around the corner as soon as Passover is over. Seven weeks after Passover, we commemorate the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai. Mark your calendars for Sunday May 15, and join us this year as we celebrate Shavuot at Sha'ar Zahav with a potluck, services and a night of study.

The evening will begin at 7:30 pm with a potluck in the Oneg Room. Dairy foods are traditional, and blintzes are especially welcome, but you can bring any dairy or vegetarian dish to share. The synagogue will provide beverages, plates and utensils. The festival service and Torah reading will begin at 8:30 pm. The evening will conclude with a teach-in until late in the evening. Come and join us on this festive occasion.

One Seder and Two Afikomanim

Following Sha'ar Zahav's tradition, the Congregational Seder was celebrated the second night of Passover, at the Officer's Club in Fort Mason. The location offered beautiful views of the Bay, as well as great opportunities to hide the afikoman.

The Seder was attended by more than two hundred people, who read the haggadah and sang together the traditional melodies: by popular request *Dayeinu* was sung twice. And what Seder would be complete without the matzah, the bitter herbs, and the charoset? And of course, the four cups of wine....

This year we had two different hiding places for the afikoman: one for the preschoolers and another one for the school-age kids. Children of all ages were looking for the coveted afikomanim under the tables and behind the chairs, in the main room as well as in adjacent rooms.

Many thanks to Shirley Liberman, who organized this wonderful night, and to Daniel Chesir and Lyssa Friedman, who co-led services with Rabbi Kahn.

Congregation to Elect Officers and Va'ad

Officers and Va'ad members for the 1994-95 term will be elected at the Congregational meeting on Sunday, May 22.

The Elections Committee has conducted a search for nominees which included discussions with other leaders and the Rabbi and a review of people who have served on committees and special events task forces. The

following slate of nominees, who have formally accepted an invitation to serve, was submitted for approval by the membership:

Nathan Robinson was appointed by President Tiela Chalmers to fill the unexpired term of Susan Unger, who resigned for personal reasons, and Nathan's continuation in this position needs to be ratified by a vote of the membership.

Cheryl Bryan was nominated to be Recorder and Mike Zimmerman to be Treasurer.

Nathan Robinson's assumption of the Program Vice-President role has left a one-year vacancy on the Va'ad. Jonathan Comisar was nominated to fill this position.

Three 3-year Va'ad positions will be vacant and the nominees are Judith Cohen, Diana Buchbinder and Ed Lopatin.

The Elections Committee has also endeavored to broaden the representation on the Va'ad for optimal

Continued on page 4

Oneg Alert

Are you retired? Free on Friday afternoons? If you are available, you can perform an easy but important mitzvah for the synagogue by picking up supplies for the Friday night oneg. If you can spend one hour per month (or less if enough people volunteer) shopping for and delivering a modest supply of goodies, please call Lea at the synagogue office (861-6932). Thanks!



Shirley Liberman lighting candles. Photo by Michael Bettinger.

Spending Your Money

If you're like me, you hardly ever write letters. So, you hardly ever *get* any letters. Mostly the mailbox contains bills and catalogues, charitable solicitations and advertising fliers. You know the mail has gotten dull when you get truly excited about the catalogues.

Sha'ar Zahav does its best to bring a little zing to your mailbox with this newsletter each month, and the occasional flier or news flash. This month we have another exciting tidbit for you: the mailing about the Congregational Meeting. Yes, it's true: coming soon to a mailbox near you, reports from the committees, a few (?) choice words from the President, and the proposed budget for the next fiscal year. Perhaps you're thinking that the budget part sounds like a candidate for the direct-from-mailbox-to-recycling-bin club? But wait: it might actually be interesting. Stay tuned for just a moment, for some fun facts to know and tell about the bang you get for your synagogue buck.

Our fiscal year goes from July 1 through June 30, so springtime is budget season for us. The draft budget is passed at two different Va'ad (Board) meetings, and then the budget approved by the Va'ad is presented for a vote at the Congregational Meeting on May 22. (You *are* saving that date, aren't you?) The proposed budget for 1994-95 is about \$258,000. Where does that money come from, and where does it go?

Personnel, building and office costs and organizational dues absorb 78% of our budget. We now have a full-time Rabbi, a full-time office manager, a part-time secretary, a part-time janitor and (our most recent addition) a part-time program coordinator. We have, of course, a building, which costs money to maintain. And we run an office (with copy and fax machines, computers, telephones, etc.) where we keep track of our members' addresses, send out mailings to members and committees, coordinate activities and services, and so forth. Finally, the synagogue is a member of two umbrella organizations: the Union of American Hebrew Congrega-



Tiela Chalmers

tions (UAHC), the national umbrella organization of reform synagogues, and the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations. We are required to pay dues to each of these organizations in an amount determined by our expenses and membership size.

Now, if you take the personnel, building, office and dues costs, and add in the costs of High Holidays and newsletter printing and postage, you now have a figure that is 90% of our budget. And if you then add in the cost of Kadimah (religious school), the total is 95% of our budget. All of our other programs (education, social programs, children's events, onegs, Chanukah and Purim parties: the whole megillah, so to speak) comes out of the remaining 5% of our budget: about \$13,000.

Where, then, do we get the money to pay for this budget, so much of which is made up of the very basic costs of running a synagogue? Just under 70% of our budget comes from dues. This is less than the UAHC recommends for a healthy congregation; we continue to grapple with this problem. The balance comes from Kadimah tuition, various fundraising efforts (the Chanukah raffle, sale of our cookbook, the support of nonmembers), donations to the General Fund, newsletter advertising, rent, and High Holiday tickets and donations.

So let's say that you don't come to Sha'ar Zahav very often. Maybe two or three times a year you come to Friday night services to observe significant yahrzeits or celebrate a baby naming with friends. You come to High Holiday services. You read through the newsletter each month when it arrives. Occasionally you tell someone, maybe with a little pride, that there is a place for gay, lesbian and bisexual Jews; that Judaism is opening up. Perhaps, once in the last four years, you have met with the Rabbi to discuss a personal matter, or to help make arrangements for the funeral of a friend.

Amazingly, even though you probably think of your involvement as minimal, you have used the services and facilities that make up 90% of our budget. You come to services in our building (which has a new roof so it doesn't leak on your head), and you know it's time to observe that yahrzeit

because our office manager uses the data base on our computer to keep track of everyone's yahrzeits, and sends out letters in advance to alert you when yours is approaching.

Through our connections with the UAHC and the World Congress, we have dramatically advanced the cause of the acceptance of gays, lesbians and bisexuals in Judaism. You came to High Holiday services (in the Unitarian Center, which we pay to rent each year). You read the newsletter, which costs \$18,000 each year to print and mail out. And you consulted, or were consoled by, our Rabbi, who works more than full time leading services, providing counseling, teaching, giving lay leaders guidance, and officiating at weddings, baby namings, b'nai mitzvah, and funerals.

When you receive our budget in the mail soon, then, don't throw it away immediately. Take a moment to look at it, knowing that whatever your involvement, this budget reflects it, and makes it possible. Look at it as you might check a bank balance: will there be enough to pay for the things *you* will need, or *might* need, this coming year? Ask yourself if it seems properly budgeted. There will be time for questions at the Congregational Meeting. It's your synagogue: you can pry if you want to. (Sorry. I couldn't help it.) See you at the meeting!

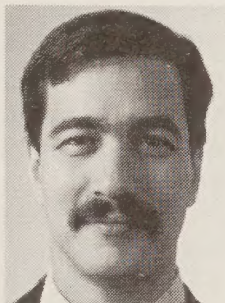


Sha'ar Zahav families celebrate at our Seder. Photo by Michael Bettinger.

Sabbatical, Part Two

I will be on sabbatical starting in early May until the High Holidays. My last day in the office will be April 28; I will be leading services on May 6 and 7. This is the second half of my sabbatical leave; the first half was last spring. While I will certainly miss Sha'ar Zahav, I am looking forward to more time with Dan and Adam, a leisurely drive across the country and two months of study and reading in western Massachusetts. I will be back on the bimah starting with Rosh Hashanah.

One of the strengths of our Congregation has always been our volunteer



Rabbi Yoel Kahn

ritual and service leaders. The Ritual Committee will plan and lead a full complement of services throughout the summer. Members of the Ritual Committee will also be available to officiate at baby-namings, aufrufs and home shiva services. Rabbis from the community will be on call to officiate at funerals or memorial services. President Tiela Chalmers, or another officer, will contact one of these rabbis if needed. The officers and office staff will also have an extensive list of Jewish and general community resources and will be able to refer anyone with special needs to an appropriate contact.

I am now completing my ninth year at Sha'ar Zahav; next High Holidays will be my tenth as Rabbi of the synagogue and our shul's 18th (Wow!). We have done a lot at Sha'ar Zahav and all have

ambitious dreams for the future. I intend to use my time away to think about both my own dreams and visions for my rabbinate and our Congregation and how together we can build the inclusive congregation and community which is at the core of CSZ's mission.

I am grateful for the confidence and support of the Congregation and its leadership which have made this period of rest and reflection possible. I wish each of you a peaceful and pleasant summer and look forward to seeing you at Rosh Hashanah.

April Va'ad Report

The April meeting opened with the Va'ad considering and approving a proposal for CSZ's participation in the Freedom Day parade. The plan this year involves the rental of a 20-ft. flatbed truck, on which our Klezmer Band will ride. As the truck moves along Market Street, it will be surrounded by CSZ marchers, and a variety of musical selections will be performed. In addition, we will look into the possibility of setting up an information booth at the site where the parade ends.

The Va'ad approved the new membership of two individuals. Following that, the Rabbi's *D'var Torah* dealt with the challenges the Congregation faces in being open and welcoming to all members, regardless of their religious background. This would include Jews who were not brought up in a Eurocentric model of faith.

An outside organization is beginning to plan a weekend conference for next year for gay, lesbian and bisexual Jewish college students and young adults. The Va'ad reviewed the proposal and voted to co-sponsor the conference.

New York's Congregation Beth Simchat Torah is planning its 21st anniversary celebration, and the Va'ad voted to purchase an ad in their Commemorative Book.

It was *deja vu* as the remainder of the Va'ad meeting was devoted to a line-by-line second review of the Congregation's budget. Adjustments were made in many areas of the budget as we looked for ways to pare expenses without scrapping vital programs and activities. At 10:15, the Va'ad wearily concluded its work and adjourned with *Oseh Shalom*.

—Mark Mackler, Recorder



Rabbi Kahn and the afikoman. Photo by Michael Bettinger.

Spiritual Support for People with HIV/AIDS

CSZ members who are living with HIV or are partners of a person with HIV, are invited to participate in our ongoing spiritual support group. We gather every month, alternating between a Shabbat dinner one month and a more structured discussion the next month. The catered Shabbat dinners are hosted by members of the group. During Rabbi Kahn's sabbatical, the support group meetings will be facilitated by Rabbi Nancy Flam, a CSZ member and Director of the Jewish Healing Center. The support group meetings are drop-in but we would appreciate a call ahead if

you are planning to attend. If you would like to be on a confidential mailing list for these programs, please call the Rabbi's secretary, David Couch, at the CSZ office. Upcoming programs include:

Shabbat dinner, Friday, May 20, at a CSZ member's home. Please call the CSZ office for reservations and directions by Friday, May 13. If interest warrants, there will also be a July dinner.

Spiritual Support Group, Thursday evening, June 9 and August 18, 7:30 - 9 pm in the CSZ Library. Rabbi Flam will facilitate a two-session discussion on "Sustaining Our Spirits."

Elect Officers

continued from page 1

diversity. The Committee is pleased that the nominees represent women and men, San Francisco, Marin and East Bay residents, parents and non-parents, and older and younger members.

Members will have an opportunity to meet the candidates following services on Friday, May 20. You will also receive a mailing with information about the candidates and about absentee voting for those unable to attend the Annual Meeting of the Congregation.

This year's Elections Committee consisted of Claudia Bernard, Paul Cohen (Chair), Betty Kalis, Irene Ogus and Richard Sinkoff. The Elections Committee is a subcommittee of the Leadership Development Committee, and was appointed by the President and approved by the Va'ad in December.



Service leaders. Photo by Michael Bettinger.

Dead Sea Scrolls

We are organizing a field trip to the de Young Museum on Sunday, May 15 to see the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit. The Dead Sea Scrolls are probably the most important manuscripts found in this century. Written in the period 200 to 70 B.C.E., the scrolls shed some light on the lives and beliefs of Jews of different sects in prerabbinical times. The scrolls are a powerful reminder of our long history and rich legacy.

There is a limited availability for this exhibition, so please RSVP at the synagogue as soon as possible. You can call the synagogue (861-6932) and reserve your space, but you will also need to send a check made out to CSZ to cover your entrance fee. Reduced rate tickets are: \$6.50 for adults, \$5 for seniors, \$4.50 for teenagers (12 to 17 years old), and free for children under 12 and for Museum Society Members.

Join the Social Action Committee

Three years ago, my activism had arrived at a place where I was determined to stand up proudly as a Jew *and* criticize the policies of the Israeli government in its oppressive treatment of Palestinians. I was tired of non-Jewish-identified Jews lending themselves and our heritage to advance someone else's agenda. I was tired of being horrified, silent, and fearing the ramifications of crucial action. Where could my voice be heard? Where was/is the progressive, Jewish-identified community?

I chose to first raise my critical voice on this issue at the 1991 Israel Day parade in New York. I was one of about two dozen fellow Jews and activists whose aim was to temper the celebrations with an urgent call for peace talks and an end to the violence. My sign read: "Jewish women demand talk and peace now." My family's reaction to my intentions was mild: "You're going to do that where? What... against? Oh G-d." At the parade, I was unprepared for the onslaught of vicious insults. Marchers spat at us. The Borough President of Queens gave us

the finger. Someone yelled at me that there was no way I could be Jewish because my mother was surely a prostitute.

Despite the hatred and misogyny, we got through it with our sense of humor intact. When one of the parade supporters suggested that one of our rounder protesters should go on a diet, one of our supporters shot back: "Feed your mind."

Although the parade was in many ways a crushing experience, I learned a lot. It fed my mind. I learned that I felt justified in my actions and that I would do it again. I recently joined Sha'ar Zahav because of the synagogue's commitment to social justice. I'm sure many of you did too. The rage was palpable at the Shabbat service following the Hebron murders. Let's go one step further and turn our vigilance into action on this and other crucial issues. Now. The first meeting of the reconvened Social Action Committee will be at 7:30 pm on May 24. For more info, please call me (386-7741) or the synagogue office.

—Eloise Magenheimer

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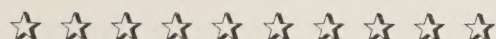
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Birthdays

- 1 Michael Pierce
- 2 Rena Frantz
- 3 Marion Trentman
- 4 Eileen Dunn
- 4 Jeffrey Rubin
- 6 Henry Carrey
- 6 Aaron Buchbinder
- 7 Dianne Hawk
- 7 Leah Fraimow-Wong
- 7 Tova Rendlich
- 8 Shelley Samuels
- 8 Stephanie Hannaford
- 9 Sherry Sporn
- 10 Lawney Baldwin
- 14 Beth Rose
- 15 Arnie Jackson
- 16 Ken Burke
- 16 Ed Tanovitz
- 17 Elaya Adelberg
- 18 Yona Barth-Rogers
- 18 David Stein
- 18 Jane Graeven
- 19 Dena Rendlich
- 20 Lillian Schaechner
- 20 Rick Wilson
- 21 Lolma Olson
- 21 Gerald Rosenstein
- 22 Janis Medina
- 22 Marilyn Brown
- 24 Jody Reiss
- 26 Jacob Donaldson
- 26 Sylvia Weisenberg
- 26 Robert Katz
- 27 Nancy Epstein
- 27 Deborah Godner
- 28 Sherie Koshover
- 29 Trudi Hauptman
- 30 Shelley Eisenman



Donna Rabinowitz New Chair of Women's Chavurah

The Women's Chavurah is delighted to welcome Donna Rabinowitz as its new Chair. Donna will host the next Women's Chavurah Havdalah at her home at 1812 Page Street #3, San Francisco, at 7 pm, Saturday, June 4. We will hold a brief Havdalah service, followed by a potluck dinner and an opportunity to discuss various ideas for Chavurah activities in the coming year. Bring a potluck dish and lots of good ideas. For potluck information and directions to Donna's, call 752-8951. If your last name begins with the letters A-H, please bring a side dish; I-P, a main dish; and Q-Z, a dessert. Many thanks to the retiring Chair, Susan Tubbesing, for her service during the past two years.



The afikoman is found. Photo by Michael Bettinger.

Classifieds

DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY: Two nice Jewish boys (one even belongs to the Congregation) are starting a Country Western dance establishment. We are looking for serious investors. We have a fully developed, unique concept and a business plan. Call Jim Frazin (337-4566). Confidentiality required.

LOOKING FOR AN OPPORTUNITY to discuss books, plays and films? To exchange your views on art, politics and contemporary culture? Then join writer/educator Susan Sobel-Feldman's ongoing discussion group, *The Literati Circle*. This group meets twice a month in Susan's Richmond District townhouse for lively analyses of stories, poetry, essays, plays and whatever else strikes our relevant fancies. There is a suggested donation of \$10 per meeting. For more information, call Susan (668-2272).

LESBIAN MOM has private room to sublease for summer beginning 6/15. House located in Parnassus Heights. \$550 including all utilities. Call 564-5870 after 6 pm.

MOVING TRAUMA? Specialist in packing kitchens, fine china, glass, art and electronics. Superb care, CSZ references. Home/office. Free binding estimates. Cardinal Packing, 759-5638.

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Gene B. Kaufman, Executive Director

Shavuot: Single Day, Double Celebration

Shavuot, like Pesach, has a double meaning. Pesach is the festival of the barley harvest, and also of the liberation from slavery; Shavuot is the festival of the wheat harvest, and also of the giving of the Torah. So connected are the two festivals that Shavuot occurs not on the full moon, or the new moon, or a particular day of any month, but on the fiftieth day after the second day of Pesach. It is one of only two festivals which the Torah schedules by counting from another festival.

The Torah commands counting: on the second day of Pesach, our ancestors brought a sheaf of barley to the Temple; this was the first day of counting. On the fiftieth day, Shavuot, they presented two loaves of leavened bread. Rabbi Shlomo Riskin writes that the seven intervening weeks measure a journey from simple food, such as wild animals eat, to bread, the food of civilization, which exists only through human effort and will. Pesach celebrates the liberation from Egypt, in which the people had only one task: to move when it was time. According to the Torah, God was the active force: sending plagues, leading the people as a pillar of fire, splitting the sea. But Shavuot is the celebration of human labor, human achievement.

In Temple times, pilgrims from every settlement in Israel brought

produce to the Temple on Shavuot. In Temple times, Shavuot was the fulfillment of Pesach, of freedom. It affirmed that the Israelites were liberated from Egypt not to live like beasts in the wilderness, or in a permanent state of dependence, but to achieve a civilization of their own.

In Temple times, when wild animals still roamed the land, and agriculture, with all its hard labor and insecurity, was the people's way of life, this was enough meaning. In Temple times, Shavuot did not celebrate the giving of the Torah.

Then came the Bar-Kochba revolt, the destruction of the nation, the slaughter and exile of the people, and the end of pilgrimage festivals based on the agricultural year. The earliest reference to Shavuot, "the Festival of Harvest on which the Torah was given," is a quote from Rabbi Meir, who lived through the defeat of Bar-Kochba.

It is fitting that Shavuot changed its meaning this way, in historical time, through human will and effort. The celebration of civilization was altered, as grain is altered into bread, by the skills of civilization.

Once established, the connection seems obvious: the Torah, in its broadest sense, is Jewish civilization. It gives

principles to discipline human will, rules to channel human labor. The Torah and Jews survived, and grew, together. Thus, as Arthur Waskow writes, it was necessary for everyone, in every generation, not only to be freed from slavery, but to stand again at Sinai, to bring fresh understanding and fresh dedication to the Torah.

The Torah readings for Shavuot underscore this point: Each generation, each individual, accepts and extends the Torah in a unique way.

The book of Ruth, which is also read on Shavuot, shows another kind of acceptance, inspired as much by personal loyalty as by religious experience. As civilized people make bread from grain, Naomi and Ruth made a family from separate people. They had no common ancestors and it was Ruth's oath that made them a family, her active choice.

This is what Shavuot has celebrated throughout Jewish history: our active choice to create bread, families, Temples, communities in exile, holidays, and all that makes up a way of life. This is what unites the dual celebrations, of bread and of Torah. Freedom is usually the beginning. Disciplined creativity is what makes civilization.

—Nina Wouk



Washing of the hands: Daniel Chesir and Lyssa Friedman. Photo by Michael Bettinger.

Alex Rader

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1 Sunday
20 Iyyar
• 4pm, Klezmer rehearsal

2 Monday
21 Iyyar
• 6pm, Healing service

3 Tuesday
22 Iyyar

4 Wednesday
23 Iyyar

5 Thursday
24 Iyyar

6 Friday
25 Iyyar
• 8:15pm, Shabbat service

7 Saturday
26 Iyyar
• 9:30am, Kadimah
• 10:15am, Shabbat service and
B'not Mitzvah of Rose Katz,
Eileen Levy & Tova Green

8 Sunday
27 Iyyar

9 Monday
28 Iyyar
• 6:30pm, Va'ad meeting

10 Tuesday
29 Iyyar

11 Wednesday
1 Sivan
• 7pm, Newsletter editing

12 Thursday
2 Sivan
• 7pm, Children's Education
meeting

13 Friday
3 Sivan
• 8:15pm, Shabbat service

14 Saturday
4 Sivan
• 9:30am, Kadimah
• 10:30am, Shabbat service

15 Sunday
5 Sivan
• Dead Sea Scrolls field trip
• 4pm, Klezmer rehearsal
• 7:30pm, Shavuot potluck
• 8:30pm, Shavuot service

16 Monday
6 Sivan
• 6 pm, Healing service
• 7 pm, Newsletter proofing

17 Tuesday
7 Sivan

18 Wednesday
8 Sivan

19 Thursday
9 Sivan

20 Friday
10 Sivan
• Shabbat Dinner Spiritual Support
Group for people with
HIV/AIDS
• 6:30pm, Bikkur Cholim
Committee leads services at
Jewish Home for the Aged, 302
Silver Ave.
• 8:15pm, East Bay service
• 8:15pm, Shabbat service; meet
candidates for officers and Va'ad

21 Saturday
11 Sivan
• 9:30am, Kadimah

22 Sunday
12 Sivan
• 3pm, Congregational Meeting
• 5pm, Klezmer rehearsal

23 Monday
13 Sivan

24 Tuesday
14 Sivan
• 7:30pm, Social Action
Committee reconvenes

25 Wednesday
15 Sivan

26 Thursday
16 Sivan
• 6:30pm, Ritual Committee
• 7pm, Newsletter distribution

27 Friday
17 Sivan
• 7pm, Tot Shabbat
• 8:15pm, Shabbat service

28 Saturday
18 Sivan

29 Sunday
19 Sivan
• 10:30am, Kaiser Brunch
• 4pm, Klezmer rehearsal

30 Monday
20 Sivan

31 Tuesday
21 Sivan

Note: Gray areas indicate
religious services.

JUNE FORWARD DEADLINES

FOR ADVERTISING MONDAY, MAY 2

To place a display ad, call Joe Ham-
ple (621-7675).

To place a classified ad, call the
office.

FOR ARTICLES MONDAY, MAY 9

Write us an article! Type it *double
spaced*, write "Attn: Gaily Forward" on
top, and mail or fax (861-6081) to CSZ.
If possible, submit it on disk too: this
will help keep our costs down. *No dead-
line extensions without advance permission
from the newsletter chair* (621-7675).

East Bay Services

- 5/20 Judy Schwartz and Carolyn
Pines', 2821 55th Ave., Oakland,
510/532-9661
- 6/17 Susan Tubbesing's, 3433 Brunell
Dr., Oakland, 510/482-3740
- 7/15 Claudia Bernard and Howard
Herman's, 644 Fairmount,
Oakland, 510/658-0123

*Care to sponsor an oneg?
Call Lea at the synagogue office (861-6932).*

Celebrate Your Marriage

Celebrate Your Marriage, a day-long workshop for newlyweds and engaged couples throughout the greater Bay Area, is a celebration of Jewish marriage in the 1990s. This course is appropriate for both same-sex and heterosexual couples.

The workshop will give couples ample opportunity to discuss their concerns about creating a partnership and resolving potential conflicts. This workshop also provides information on the joys and complexities of creating a Jewish home.

Celebrate Your Marriage is co-sponsored by Jewish Family and Children's Services and the Northern California Board of Rabbis. It will take place from

The Jewish Gaily Forward is published by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, 861-6932. Permission to reproduce material is freely given, and credit would be appreciated.

Members of the congregation receive the *Forward*. For \$18/year, nonmembers will receive a *Forward* subscription.

Members of the Newsletter Committee

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Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for nonmembers and \$10 per column inch for members, with discounts available for size and frequency. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each 10 additional words. No personals accepted.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The *Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste.

10 am to 4 pm, Sunday, May 15, at the Bernard Osher Marin Jewish Community Center, 200 N. San Pedro Rd., San Rafael. The fee is \$50 per couple, which

includes lunch.

Preregistration is required. To register, or for more information, call Debbie Freed (507-0564).

Synagogue Information

Rabbi Yoel Kahn (861-6932)

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Administrative Vice President,

David Stein (863-4769)

Program Vice President,

Nathan Robinson

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Rabbi's Secretary, David Couch

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Archivist, Bill Ashley-Dobbin and Bill Goldstein

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Brotherhood, open

Building, Ellen Gierson

Bylaws, Edward Pollock

Cemetery, Richard Inlander

Children's Chavurah, Audrey Adelson and Joan Lefkowitz

Cookbook Project, Robin Leonard

Dues, Lisa Katz and Roz Fuerman

Education, open

Endowment Fund, Richard Inlander

Finance, Brett Trueman

Fine Arts, Alice Prussin

Fundraising, Michael Zimmerman and Ellie Cohen

Gift Shop, Jeff Rubin

Israel Chavurah, Ron Lezell

Leadership Development, Irene Ogus

Long-Range Planning, Allan Gold

Membership, Carolyn Pines

Newsletter, Joe Hample (621-7675)

Oneg, Debbi Jacobs-Levine

Past Presidents Council, Don Albert

Personnel, David Stein

Public Relations, Sharyn Saslasky

Religious School, Trudi Hauptman

Ritual, Frank Yellin

Social Action, Eloise Magenheimer

Social Program, by committee

Volunteer Coordinator, Robin Leonard

Women's Chavurah, Donna

Rabinowitz

Members wishing to contact any Va'ad member or committee chair are invited to obtain his or her number from the synagogue office.

Office Hours: Monday–Friday from 9 am to 3 pm. Please call the synagogue office at 861-6932.

Emergency Number: In an emergency, the congregation can be contacted outside of office hours by calling 861-6938.

Bikkur Cholim: If you or a friend who is a member of Sha'ar Zahav are ill in the hospital or at home, and would like to have the rabbi or a member of the Bikkur Cholim Committee call or visit, please notify the synagogue office.

Member of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (Mike Rankin, Robin Leonard, Allyce Kimerling, Liaisons) and of the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations (Lane Schickler, Liaison).

Services are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 pm (except as noted), with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are generally held on the second Saturday of each month at 10:30 am—check calendar for each month.

Gift Shop Hours: Fridays, 7:30–8:05 pm.

Library Hours: Open during office hours, and 30 minutes before and after Friday night services.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav (Congregation of the Golden Gate) is located in the Upper Market District of San Francisco at 220 Danvers at Caselli, which is one block south of the intersection of 18th and Market streets. By public transport, take MUNI bus 33 Stanyan to 18th and Danvers and walk one block south on Danvers to Caselli.

Kadimah 5755 — 94/95 Preregistration

Kadimah preregistration applications have been sent out to all Congregation Sha'ar Zahav families with school-age children. By starting the registration process early, we hope to have a better understanding of the composition of the classes in our Hebrew School next year. This will give Phyllis Mintzer, the Principal, and the Children's Education Committee more time to evaluate staffing needs. Early registration will also help us predict Kadimah's budgetary needs before finalization of the Congregation's annual budget for the coming year.

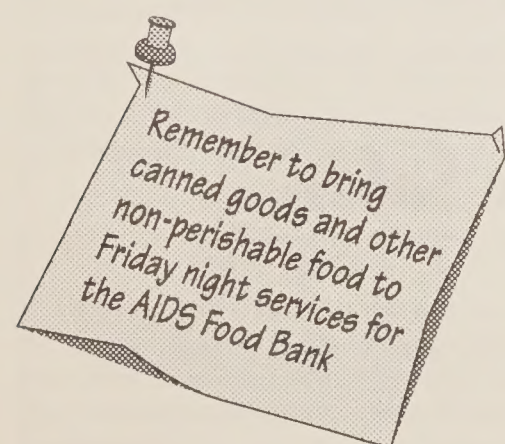
Please return your preregistration form immediately if you want your school-age children to attend Hebrew School for fall 1994. If you have not received a preregistration form, please contact the CSZ office.

If you have any questions about Kadimah or whether your child is ready, you can contact Phyllis Mintzer (585-1865) or Trudi Hauptman (334-5785) for guidance.

Service for Young and Old

The Bikkur Cholim Committee will attend services at the Jewish Home for the Aged on Friday, May 20. The children of Kadimah have been invited. All adults and children are welcome. Services start promptly at 6:30 pm and the oneg concludes around 8pm. The Home is at 302 Silver Ave. at Mission Street.

For information regarding children, leave a message for Phyllis Mintzer at the CSZ office; for other questions, call Eli Weinstein (861-8125).



Children saying the four questions. Photo by Michael Bettinger.

Kadimah News

March was a particularly exciting month for Kadimah.

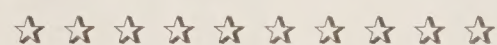
On March 12, Ethan Frazin was called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. He is the first of Kadimah's B'nai Mitzvah class to participate in the watershed activity of helping to lead the services, reading the Torah and Haftarah portions and delivering a d'rash. For Kadimah students, this ritual is one of the 13 mitzvot they perform during their Bar/Bat Mitzvah year. The mitzvot also include a choice of other activities in the areas of Torah (study), Avodah (worship) and G'milut Chasadim (acts of loving kindness).

Before the service, the B'nai Mitzvah parents prepared the oneg. This

new tradition expresses how much this group has turned into an extended family. Everyone in the B'nai Mitzvah community — Ethan's six classmates and their parents — kvelled at Ethan's presence on the bimah.

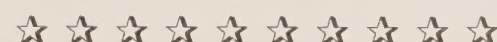
The next week, Kadimah invited the younger members of the Congregation to a Passover Seder. About forty infants and toddlers attended! Rabbi Kahn, along with Eileen Levy and Sydney Levy, led the group of youngsters and their parents in songs and activities on the Passover themes.

Meanwhile, in the oneg room, Kadimah students busily set the table and prepared the charoset. The Kadimah students then conducted the Seder by reading from a young children's haggadah, while their guests, many on parental laps, dipped parsley, crunched matzah and spilled grape juice. It was a crowded and festive occasion, which we expect has set a new precedent in the transmission of our traditions l'dor va-dor.



Anniversaries

- 12 Rebecca Tarin & Cindy Greenberg
- 15 Lisa Feldstein & Max Drukman
- 16 Ann Bauman & Kelly Thiemann
- 17 Lynn Bravewomon & Annie Kennedy



Lesbian/Gay Parenting Forum

Jewish Family and Children's Services of the East Bay (JFCS) is inviting all interested gay and lesbian parents to a workshop on parenting issues. The workshop is scheduled for Thursday, June 9, at 7 pm, at the Berkeley-Richmond JCC Preschool, 1414 Walnut Street, Berkeley. The workshop will focus on parenting in early childhood: infancy through the preschool years.

The workshop will be led by Rachel Biale, LCSW, who is the JFCS Clinical Consultant. She has extensive experience in working with families and children and in parenting guidance and education.

The workshop is free and open to all. For further information, please call Rachel Biale (510/532-6314).

Sha'ar Zahav Returns to Israel

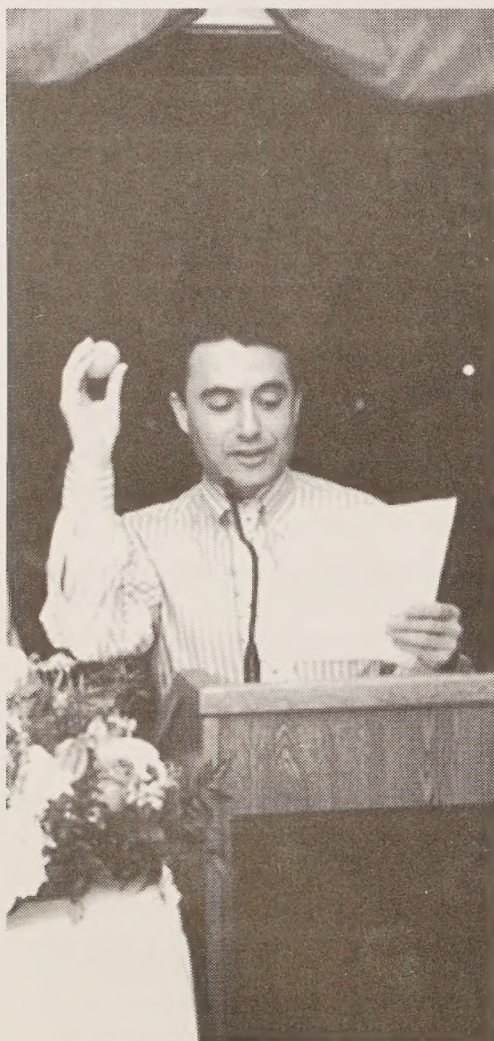
Sha'ar Zahav will sponsor a trip to Israel from April 22 to May 5, 1996.

This is to give lots of advance notice so that you can schedule your future vacations and begin saving shekels.

Not only is April a beautiful time to see the land of Israel, but April 24, 1996 will be Yom Ha'atzma'ut (Israel Independence Day). Also, there will be a year-long international birthday celebration in Jerusalem in 1996, marking the city's tri-millennium (that's 3,000 years!).

The synagogue's first trip to Israel in May 1993 was a great success and a most enriching experience for all 26 participants.

The trip will need one or more coordinator(s). If you are interested in assuming a role in planning the trip, or if there are any questions, please call CSZ's Israel Chavurah Chair Ron Lezell (626-5748).



The egg. Photo by Michael Bettinger.

Israel Update

El Al Steward Achieves Spousal Benefits For His Male Lover

An Israeli court granted veteran El Al employee Jonathan Danilowitz complimentary airline tickets for his life partner of 14 years. (Jonathan has attended services at CSZ on visits to San Francisco.) The District Labor Court unanimously rejected El Al's appeal of prior rulings. The court ruled that El Al clearly discriminated against Danilowitz, based on the 1991 amendment to the Labor Law, which states there can be no discrimination in the workplace on the basis of, among other things, sexual orientation. The amendment was the work of *Otzma*, the lobbying arm of the Society for the Protection of Personal Rights, Israel's gay and lesbian advocacy group, together with the help of members of the Knesset from both Likud and Labor, as well as Meretz, which has traditionally been at the forefront of the struggle for gay rights in the Knesset.

The case has been before the court for almost five years. The wait was worthwhile because, in the meantime,

the new amendment became law and gave the court the necessary tool to rule in Danilowitz' favor. This also means that Danilowitz can only get free tickets for his lover for the period that started in January 1992, when the amendment became law. El Al has appealed to the Supreme Court to reverse the ruling.

The case was given full and supportive media coverage. This is the first time the amendment to the Labor Law has been used in a case of work discrimination in Israel; it is effectively the long-awaited test case for the amendment. The unanimous court ruling sets a positive precedent for others who feel they were discriminated against in work matters and who will hopefully feel encouraged to pursue the issue in and out of court. One case in point: Professor Uzi Even has petitioned Tel Aviv University to recognize his lover Amit Kama as a faculty spouse with all the associated benefits.

—Ron Lezell

Oneg Sponsors

These generous people sponsored onegs during the month of April:

- 4/1 Michael W., in honor of his parents.
- 4/8 Judy Schwartz & Carolyn Pines, in honor of their Kiddushin.
- 4/15 Alice Prussin, in honor of the naming of Lucy Miriam Friedman Blumberg.
- 4/22 Jeff Lilly, to commemorate the yahrzeit of his father, Clyde Lilly.
- 4/29 Nancy Polikoff, in honor of the naming of Lainey.

Naches

To Hal Podgur, on the birth of his third grandchild and first granddaughter, Katie Brew.

To Carolyn Pines & Judy Schwartz, on their Kiddushin.

To Margot Damaser, on receiving her Ph.D. in Bioengineering from U.C. Berkeley and to Malia Lewis for being admitted to the Yale School of Drama's M.F.A. program (in Technical Design and Production). We are having a party to celebrate at noon (before the Congregational Annual Meeting) on Sunday, May 22, 2840 Mariposa Street, San Francisco. Call 664-0804 for directions.

Dr. Diane Sabin

CHIROPRACTOR

281 Noe (at Market), San Francisco, CA 94114 415/252-5500

Illness Support Group

The Jewish Healing Center will be offering "Sustaining Our Spirits: A Study and Support Group for Jewish Men and Women Under 60 Years of Age Who Are Living With Serious Illness." Participants will explore Jewish spiritual and theological issues around illness and healing, drawing both from the Jewish tradition and from participants' life experiences. The group will be co-facilitated by a clinical psychologist, Susan Shavin, Ph.D. and CSZ member Rabbi Nancy Flam, West Coast Director of the Jewish Healing Center in San Francisco. The program will begin May 18 and continue for eight consecutive weeks; the cost is \$125 for eight sessions. To register or for more information call the Jewish Healing Center (387-4999) or Dr. Susan Shavin (441-0318).

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New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained the following new members this month. A warm welcome to the latest people to join our family:

Michael W.

Mark Silver

We are grateful to see our congregation grow. It is up to all of us to help our new members feel welcome as they become active participants in our community.

Free Student Loans

Hebrew Free Loan Association of San Francisco provides interest-free loans to full-time Jewish students attending colleges for undergraduate or graduate studies.

These loans are intended to supplement the various financial resources available to students, and may be applied toward tuition, school-related fees and living expenses.

Hebrew Free Loan also has a special loan fund to assist people in sending their children to Jewish day schools and also has some grant money to aid people with day care or camp needs. Hebrew Free Loan also makes personal and small business loans. All Hebrew Free loans are interest-free.

For more information, call Hebrew Free Loan Association (982-3177).



Biggest CSZ Seder Ever! Photo by Michael Bettinger.

703 Market Street, Suite 340, San Francisco 415/ 982-3177



**HEBREW FREE LOAN
ASSOCIATION**

**We are the only Free Loan Agency.
We are supported entirely by donations.**

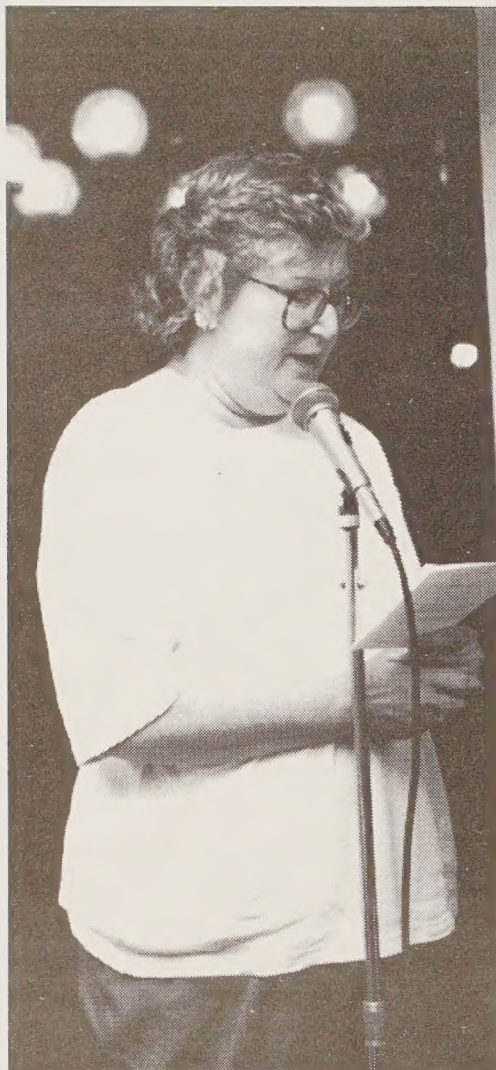
**INTEREST FREE
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HFLA interest free loans are available throughout Northern California to begin a business, to end personal financial problems, to attend college, to help Jewish religious or educational organizations, for debt consolidation, for emigre resettlement needs, and to enroll children in Jewish Day Schools. HFLA has offered interest free loans in the Bay Area since 1897. We are only a phone call away!

14855 Oka Road, Los Gatos 408/ 356-7576

1321 Howe Avenue, Sacramento 916/ 921-1921

3245 Sheffield Avenue, Oakland 510/ 532-6314



Judith Cohen reading at the Seder. Photo by Michael Bettinger.

CSZ Readies Itself for Its Second Tot Shabbat

Back by popular demand! Our first Tot Shabbat held last March 11 was such a big success with both toddlers and parents that we are preparing a second night of storytelling and singing. Like last time, the half-hour services will be followed by a Tot Oneg, where kids can eat and play, and parents can share their favorite child-rearing anecdotes. Bring your toddlers on Friday, May 27, at 7 pm, and be ready to enjoy!

Dues and Don'ts

Yes, members of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, it's that time again. Soon you will be receiving your annual pledge form (remember our fiscal year runs July 1 to June 30). Coincidentally, the current issue of *Reform Judaism* has a number of commentaries on the dues process. Included are a few horror stories. I read them smugly, thinking, "This would never happen at Sha'ar Zahav." But then, it occurred to me that perhaps not everyone in our synagogue community sees the dues process as the Dues Committee does.

Our Dues Committee labors long and hard to ensure that the process is Systematic, Across the board, Fair, and Equitable. The ten commandments that follow are another way of stating our policies. (Oh sure, we've had problems on occasion, mostly due to communication or clerical errors, but hopefully we are now on track.) I'd like to put out an invitation to members of the Congregation: if you feel that we've been remiss in any of these "commandments" call the office, and I'll call you back. We think the dues process has been working well, making it SAFE for everyone. If you think there is a consistent problem or that we do not respect the guidelines listed below, let me know why.

"Without sustenance, there is no Torah; without Torah, there is no sustenance" (Pirkei Avot 3:21). The following commandments appeared in *Reform Judaism* and were developed by the UAHC task force on the unaffiliated.

I. You shall create, from the very first encounter with prospective members, an atmosphere that invites and inspires a life-long relationship predicated upon mutual responsibility and trust.

II. You shall discuss dues with a prospective member in the context of a broader conversation about the syna-

gogue and opportunities for involvement, in a personal meeting and not over the phone.

III. You shall inform the congregation on a regular basis about the synagogue's financial needs, the various programs and services the congregation provides, and the importance of members' financial support.

IV. You shall demonstrate through your actions that you care more about people than about their money.

V. You shall strive to establish an atmosphere of mutual support and understanding within the congregation that encourages fiscal responsibility from members and compassion for members' needs from the leadership.

VI. You shall not keep availability of, and procedures for, dues relief a secret; anyone in need should feel comfortable requesting relief and, thereby, remain a part of your congregation.

VII. You shall respect and maintain the honor of a person requesting relief. Guard the confidentiality of the request closely, lest members be hesitant to request relief. Maintain good records from year to year, so that the rationale for granting dues relief will be clear for those handling requests in the future.

VIII. You shall respond speedily to requests for relief, so as not to keep someone waiting anxiously for the response.

IX. You shall discuss dues relief with congregants in as personal a way as possible. Face-to-face meetings are always preferable.

X. You shall conduct dues-related discussions in a way that exemplifies how much you value the membership of everyone in your congregation and invites all who are interested to become part of your synagogue community.

—Roslyn Fierman

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Contributions

Sha'ar Zahav welcomes all contributions of all sizes to mark any event and to add to any of our funds. Contributions will be acknowledged in the *Forward* unless otherwise requested.

Donations were made to Sha'ar Zahav's funds in the past months by the following contributors:

AIDS Fund

Jordan Berger, to commemorate the yahrzeits of Reed Barber, Neill Rosen and Dennis Mitchell.

Bikkur Cholim Fund

Jody Reiss, in honor of the Kiddushin of Carolyn Pines & Judy Schwartz.

General Fund

Jerry Rosenstein, in honor of the birth of Daniel Neill Meyer-O'Keeffe.

Betty Kalis, in memory of Stacey Melissa Kalis.

Hal Podgur, in celebration of the birth of his granddaughter, Katie Brew.

Harry & Shirley Schickler, in celebration of their 47th anniversary.

Nancy Epstein, in memory of Erwin Epstein.

Allan Berenstein, in memory of Rodger Morales.

Allan Berenstein, in honor of the birth of Hal Podgur's granddaughter, Katie Brew.

Judy Macks, in memory of Ruth Macks.

Ron Lezell, in honor of the Kiddushin of Judy Schwartz & Carolyn Pines.

Susan Morton, in memory of Ruth Morton.

Jonathan Funk & John Arnold, in honor of the Kiddushin of Judy Schwartz & Carolyn Pines.

Meredith Florian & Merry Luskin, in honor of the Kiddushin of Judy Schwartz & Carolyn Pines.

Merry Luskin, in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Rose Katz.

Stephanie Hannaford, in memory of Dora Yoffie.

Carolyn Pines & Judy Schwartz, in honor and appreciation of Jonathan Funk, Nathan Robinson, Jill Rose, Andy Rose, Bruce Priebe, Steve Elman, and Tom Holt for special participation in their Kiddushin.

Malia Lewis, in memory of Julius Oppenheim and Sigrid Wurschmidt.

Carolyn Pines & Judy Schwartz, in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Rose Katz, Tova Green, and Eileen Levy.

Kadimah Fund

Marc Lipschutz, in honor of Allan Gold, Irene Ogus, Mike Rankin & James Proctor.

Kadimah Library

Number the Stars, donated by **Greer Hauptman**.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Henry Carrey, in memory of Frahdle Post & David Caxrey.

Jordan Berger, in blessed memory of Martin Berger.

Carolyn Pines & Judy Schwartz, in honor and appreciation of Rabbi Kahn for his guidance and inspiration throughout their Kiddushin.

Jonathan Goldman

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund for Hebron Relief

Michael Hulton

Ben Brody

A special thanks to **David Weinstein**, whose gift of Hollywood memorabilia in memory of his partner, Albert (Bryn) Stern, was recently sold at auction. The proceeds will go towards payment of the costs of printing our forthcoming manual, *A Time to Prepare*, on preparing for death.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

Gift Shop



Friday nights, 7:30-8:05 pm



Principal Phyllis Mintzer and the children's Seder. Photo by Jeanette Nichols.

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